

Darnall Army Community Hospital, Fort Hood, Texas

Department of Pathology & Area Laboratory Services

Care - Quality - Readiness



INSTRUCTIONS Sputum Collection

Label must include your last name, first name, and sponsor's Social Security Number.

“**Sputocol**” collection system must be used for all sputum specimens.

A deep morning cough produces the most suitable specimen for testing.

Transport the specimen to the Laboratory as soon as possible for testing.

NOTE: Be careful not to mis-thread the lid, because leakage will occur. When leakage occurs, the Laboratory will discard the entire container and no test will be conducted.

Prepare the Sputocol:

With one hand on the base of the device, pull funnel straight up with the other hand.

Affix the label on the tube opposite of the gradations.

Replace the funnel-tube into its stand.

Keep unit upright at all times.

Collect Sputum:

Rinse your mouth out with plain water.

A deep morning cough produces the most suitable specimen for testing.

Open the funnel lid and expectorate (cough up the mucus) into the funnel.

Ensure the sputum passes into the tube.

Secure the Specimen:

Pinch the two flaps on the base stand with one hand.

With the other hand, remove funnel by twisting at the stem.

Do not touch top of funnel because of possible contamination.

Discard funnel into a trash can.

Remove bottom cover and use it to replace the cap on the tube.

Place only the capped tube into the Biohazard Transport bag.

Transport the specimen to the Laboratory as soon as possible for testing.

